

January 21, 2004

The Honorable H. Charles Royce, Chairman  
Resources, Recreation and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 305  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**Re: HB 1136, relative to homeowner exemptions from certain environmental permitting**

Dear Chairman Royce:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1136, which would exempt homeowners from certain environmental permitting.

As you know, the Department of Environmental Services (DES) has been working closely with Representative Patten and various professional groups including the New Hampshire Joint Board of Licensure (the Board), the New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists (NHANRS) and the Granite State Designers and Installers Association (GSDI) to correct and clarify language found in both RSA 310-A and RSA 482-A. As a result of these meetings, Representative Betsy Patten has submitted an amendment to HB 1136 that addresses the issues of concern for all parties. DES has reviewed the amendment and supports the changes as proposed.

In summary, the proposed language includes:

1. Changes to RSA 310-A:77 and RSA-A:79 to provide an exemption that would allow a homeowner to delineate wetlands and prepare plans for driveway and utility access to their primary residence.
2. Changes to RSA 310-A:84 to more clearly establish eligibility and experience necessary for certification as a wetland scientist.
3. Changes to RSA 482-A that would require DES to establish a rule waiver process.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please call either me at 271-3503 or Rene Pelletier at 271-2951 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very truly yours,

Michael P. Nolin  
Commissioner

cc: Representatives Betsy Patten, Kathleen Taylor, Janet Wall